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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society on Thursday, 18th February, 1909, at 11.40 a.m. Present: His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., presiding, His Lordship Bishop Collins, the Hons. L. J. Bertram, C.M.G., H. H. Cousins, Dr. Pringle, C.M.G., R. P. Simmonds, Messrs. D. Campbell, R. Craig, A. W. Douet, C. A. T. Fursdon, E. A. H. Haggart, A. C. L. Martin, and the Secretary, John Barclay.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Mr. J. Shore, and Mr. J. R. Williams, regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolutions. Mr. Bertram moved the following resolution:— "That this Board desires to record its sincere regret at the untimely death of Mr. C. E. deMercado. The Board recognises the deep interest which Mr. deMercado at all times evinced in any matter which affected the welfare of the community and of the agriculture of the Colony."

Mr. D. Campbell seconded and it was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Haggart, it was decided to forward a copy of the resolution to the widow of Mr. deMercado.

Taxation. Mr. Craig asked if the Secretary had got any replies as to instances of an increase of taxation on the holdings under the new Taxation Law.

The Secretary replied that as Mr. Palache was engaged in the Prize Holdings Competition in St. Elizabeth he had not yet had time to attend to this matter. He had not yet heard from the Secretary of the Christiana Branch on this subject, but Mr. Gartshore, Secretary of the Hanover Branch, was sending up some details on the matter.

Conditions in South Manchester. The Secretary reported that the papers on this subject were still in circulation among the members of the Committee, but he hoped to be able to make a report at the next meeting.

His Excellency said that he had inquired into the statements

Clark *not to ship oranges from* Milk River, had destroyed a thriving industry. He had learned that in reality no oranges were shipped *from Milk River before October* 1898, and in that year 48,624 barrels of oranges were shipped from that port, in the following year 14,580 barrels were shipped. Milk River wharf was closed on 5th November 1900, under Mr. Clark's agreement, so that it could not be said that this agreement had destroyed a thriving industry. He would like the Committee to bear this in mind.

Orange Industry. With regard to the Orange Committee, the Secretary stated that the following gentlemen were to be asked to attend a meeting on Friday, 5th March, and to write their views on the subject. The meeting to be held will be open to the public:—J. H. McPhail, Bog Walk; H. C. Bennett, Spanish Town; A. W. Gardner, Kingston; L. Sturridge, Mandeville; A. M. Lewis, Mandeville; S. H. Hislop, Kingston; C. E. Scudamore, Montego Bay. He hoped to present a report at the next meeting.

The Secretary read letter from the Agent of the Direct Line acknowledging receipt of his letter with reference to the carrying of citrus fruit in the insulated space of the steamers, stating that the letter would be forwarded to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. for instructions in the matter.

The Secretary read the following letters from the C. S. O.:—

(a) Inspection of Direct Line Steamers. No. 1352/1454, 5th February, 1909.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4784 of the 29th ultimo, and to state for the information of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, that His Excellency has decided that the fortnightly inspection by the Harbour Master of the fruit accommodation of the Direct Line steamers shall be discontinued, and has approved in stead of each steamer being inspected once every six months.—(Sgd). Louis J. Bertram, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

(b) Imperial Department of Agriculture. No. 1229/S.S. 6/09, 2nd February.

I am directed by the Governor to state, for the information of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, that he has been informed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., has been granted permission to retire from the post of Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, with effect from the 30th November, 1908, and that Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G., D.SC., at present Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands, has been selected for appointment in succession to Sir Daniel Morris.—(Sgd.) G. M. Wortley, per Actg. Colonial Secretary.

It was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to write the Government expressing satisfaction and confidence in the appointment of Dr. Watts, whose services when in this Colony had been highly appreciated, and that the Board would be glad to give Dr. Watts their hearty support.

(c) Foot and Mouth Disease. No. 1287/15707/08, 3rd February, 1909.

With reference to your letters of the 4th, 18th, and 25th ultimo, I am directed by the Governor to state, for the information of the Jamaica

Agricultural Society, that in consequence of the prevalence of foot and mouth disease among cattle in certain parts of the United States, His Excellency in Privy Council, on the 27th ultimo, issued an order, which was published in the *Gazette* of the 28th *idem.* prohibiting, as from the 6th instant and until further orders, the landing in Jamaica of cattle, animals, fodder, and litter, as defined in Law 24 of 1890 and Law 1 of 1896, brought from the United States of America.

I am to add that it is reported that foot and mouth disease exists in the districts of Camperdown, St. Ann's parish, and to ask you to make early enquiry into and report on the matter.—(Sgd.) LOUIS J. BERTRAM, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

P.S.—Since the above was written, His Excellency has been advised that in the order in Privy Council above referred to corn and oats may be considered to be included in the term "fodder." It was not the intention of the Government to prohibit by the order the landing of such articles from the United States of America and a notification will be published in this week's *Gazette* to the effect that fodder other than grass and hay may be imported.

The Secretary said that Mr. Hirst was in the district referred to lately and had not heard of any serious disease, but he (the Secretary) had written several gentlemen about the district from whom he hoped to hear more about the matter. He thought, however, that it was the same mouth trouble which had been prevalent among horses in Kingston, diagnosed as "Enzootic Stomatitis," and which was not very serious.

(d) Porto Rico Bulls. No. 1468/1637, 9th February, 1909.

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that Mr. B. S. Gosset has reported that he expects three young bulls from Porto Rico by the steamer *Praesident* which is timed to arrive this week. The bulls are for breeding purposes and Mr. Gosset has been informed that there is no objection to their importation.

2. I am to ask you to be so good as to arrange with the Government Inspector of Stock for the housing of the bulls at the Government stables at the Parade, Kingston, which are under your charge. Mr. Gosset and Mr. Tavares have been informed that this will be done for such time as may be necessary.—(Sgd.) LOUIS J. BERTRAM, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary said the bulls had arrived and were now in the stables, but he did not know that the stables had been officially arranged as the Government stables under his charge. The Society rented the premises and as there were good stalls, members of the Society could stable imported bulls there under the care of the Veterinary Surgeon, and all he (the Seeretary) did was to overlook them.

Exhibitions. A letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee was submitted, asking if the Colony could be represented at a Travelling Exhibition to be held at Olympia, London, at the minimum expense of £20. The matter was referred to the Exhibitions Committee.

Estimates. The Secretary submitted the Estimates for the following year. As regards the Secretary's salary, it was agreed that the £50 given by the Board of Agriculture which was to be abolished, should be continued, as the Society would take over

and junior clerks should receive £8 13/ per annum and 5/ per week respectively increase, and that the half of the salary of the typist paid by the Board of Agriculture should be transferred to the Society; that £20 should be added to the allocation for office travelling, while there was a reduction of £40 in the amount for office furniture, the other items remaining the same.

The Director of Agriculture then stated his proposals regarding Instructors. These called for an increase of £1,300 per annum for two years until the Elder, Dempster contract expired. After discussion it was thought that the scheme was one that would be better to be applied gradually rather than in one year, and that the present area covered by Instructors might be restricted to save travelling.

Dr. Pringle moved that the Government be requested to add £500 more to the Agricultural Society's grant for the general purposes of agricultural instruction.

Mr. Craig seconded, and this was agreed to. The approved estimates were directed to be published.

Prize Holdings. The Secretary said he expected to have submitted the report of the judging in St. Elizabeth, which was finished on Friday, but Mr. Arnett having to come into Kingston on Wednesday to attend the Conference with the Instructors' Committee, had not been able to get the report finished.

Woolless Sheep. The Secretary submitted report as follows:—

I received a letter from Mr. Isaiah A. Dell, Calabar, Southern Nigeria, stating that it was his intention to take a few woolless sheep from Lagos to Jamaica, for the purpose of crossing with the woolly ones here, and asking whether the Society would agree to buy them on their arrival in Jamaica, or, if not, keep them at their expense from the day of their arrival, for inspection by any one who might be interested in seeing them and wishing to buy. He intended to bring about six, and Sir Alfred Jones was bringing them free from West Africa to Kingston. Mr. Dell asked for a quick reply as he was leaving Calabar in May. I replied that I would consult the Live Stock Committee, but if he did not hear from me in time, I would undertake to keep them in the office yard for Veterinary inspection and for public inspection at his expense, until sold.

The members of the Live Stock Committee, with the exception of Dr. Pringle, did not think the Society should undertake any obligation whatever in regard to them, beyond offering him the use of the office yard for a limited time at Mr. Dell's risk and expense.

Dr. Pringle thought this was rather stingy, seeing that Mr. Dell risked bringing these animals from Lagos, and Sir Alfred Jones was bringing them here free of freight, and thought that the Society should give all the help they could, but if not, that he was willing to purchase the sheep at a reasonable price and pay the incoming expenses, if I would arrange for this.

We have had some of these West African sheep brought in before, I think from Barbados where they are common, and you can see some of them about the streets of Kingston now and cross breeds. I think it was Mr. Gosset that once suggested that we should encourage their importation for mutton purposes as they thrive naturally in this climate.

I shall be glad to arrange to receive them at the steamer and keep

thinks advisable, and arrange with Mr. Dell about disposing of them to Dr. Pringle, or as he pleases, if the Board give me authority.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

His Excellency said that he would take a trio, and if Dr. Pringle took the rest, the Secretary might ask Mr. Dell to bring more than six, and that there would be no objection to his taking charge of them as proposed. Agreed.

Shows. The following applications for grants to shows were made :—

(a) St. Ann's Show at Brown's Town on April 22nd.

(b) Cambridge Show at Woodford Pen, St. Andrew, on May 5th.

(c) Christiana Show, February or March 1910.

Grants were allotted under the usual rules and conditions.

Ippi Appa Hats. The Secretary submitted communications from the Hector's River Branch, Rio Minho Branch and Above Rocks. The Secretary stated there had been complaints made as to the quality of Ippi Appa hats made in Jamaica. The Society might secure samples of the straw from which the Panama hats were made, so that the makers here might know whether it was in the quality of the straw or in the making of the hats they failed. He was directed to ask the Government to procure some hat straw from the British Consul at Guayaquil.

New Members. The following new members were elected :—

J. J. DaCosta, Black River; Wm. Dougall, Morant Bay; C. M. Neilson, Old Harbour; J. M. Fletcher, Richmond; H. H. Thatcher, Kingston.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday, 18th March.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING.

THE Half-yearly General Meeting of the members of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society at No. 11, North Parade, on 28th January at 12.45. Present :—His Excellency the Governor presiding, and in addition to the members of the Board of Management there were present :—Messrs. Alex. Stewart, May Pen; E. J. Wortley, H. Q. Levy, G. A. Payne, and the following representatives of Branch Societies :—W. T. Linton (Above Rocks), R. A. Jones (Æolus Valley), E. A. Tomlinson (Bull Head), Rev. I. N. Gordon (Cedar Valley), R. Ritchie (Metcalfe), A. B. Ventresse (Sav.-la-Mar), J. A. Edwards (Smithville), J. S. L. Cox (St. Ann), R. L. Constantine (St. Thomas-in-the-Vale), Rev. McCalla (Spanish Town), J. T. Edman (Trinity Ville). Professor Newstead was also present to meet some of the members of the Board before he left for England in the afternoon.

MINUTES—The minutes of the preceding Half-yearly Meeting held in June and the Special General Meeting held in September, which had been published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read and confirmed.

DEATH OF MR. BOURNE.—Mr. Craig moved the following resolution:—"That the Jamaica Agricultural Society records with sincere regret the

sad and unexpected death of the Hon. Hugh Clarence Bourne, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, a member of its Board of Management, who since his connection with it ever evinced a warm interest in its proceedings and welfare, and whose ready assistance at all times the Society gladly acknowledges.

"This Society further desires to express to Mrs. Bourne the heartfelt condolence and sympathy of its members in her irreparable loss and instructs a copy of this resolution to be sent to her."

This was unanimously carried.

The Secretary's Half-yearly Report to 30th September, 1908, was submitted as follows:—

I HAVE the honour to submit my report for the first half of the financial year ending 30th September, 1908, as follows:—

The meeting in August had not a quorum of members, but the *business was gone through and confirmed next month.*

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.—During the half-year five meetings of the Board were held and two general meetings. No meetings of Committees were held, but pressing matters were submitted to the various Committees by circulation of the papers, viz.:—

(1) Staple and Minor Products.—July—Letters from members calling attention to the seriousness of the white scale on orange trees.

(2) Live Stock Committee.—Reports and letters *re* Bulls and Stallions; April (1), June (3), August (2).

(3) Office Committee.—April. *re* new office. July, Secretary's itinerary in St. Ann and Trelawny. September, Secretary visits South Manchester. Upper Trelawny. Clarendon and St. Catherine.

(4) Finance Committee.—May, Secretary's minute *re* Bath Branch. June, letters *re* Bath Branch. August, Auditor's Report.

(5) Instructors.—April, arrangements for year. June, *re* drought Manchester and St. Elizabeth. August and September, papers *re* Upper Trelawny Branch and Ulster Spring.

(6) Shows.—April, *re* Marquees. August, *re* St. Mary Show. September, *re* Bath Show.

At the half-yearly general meeting held in June, a new Board was elected.

A special general meeting for the revision of the rules was held at the office, No. 11, Parade, Kingston, on Wednesday, 17th September, at 12.30 p.m. The revised rules were published in the November JOURNAL.

The attendance for the first half-year was as follows:—

	Monthly.	Gen.	Total.
His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G.	2	1	3
Hon. Lt.-Col. C. J. Ward	0	0	0
Hon. Dr. Pringle	2	1	3
Hon. H. Clarence Bourne	2	–	2
Hon. L. J. Bertram	2	1	3
His Lordship Bishop Collins	3	2	5
R. Craig	3	1	4
D. Campbell	5	2	7
A. W. Douet	1	1	2
C. A. T. Fursdon	–	–	–
Hon. Geo. McGrath	2	–	2
E. W. Muirhead	4	1	5
A. C. L. Martin	1	1	2
H. T. Ronaldson	–	–	–
J. Shore	2	2	4
	2	2	4

	Monthly	Gen.	Total.
J. R. Williams - - -	2	–	2
Jno. Barclay - - -	5	2	7
Hon. H. H. Cousins - -	2	1	3

The following members were off the Island for a period during the half-year :—

Dr. Pringle, September to November; Mr. McGrath, June to October; Mr. Fursdon, July to October; Mr. Williams, August to October; Mr. Simmonds, June to August.

Mr. Douet and Mr. Martin are new members elected at the general meeting, and Mr. Cousins was as Director of Agriculture, nominated by the Governor as Deputy Chairman.

The following shows the chief business that has been before the Board :—

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.—In April it was intimated by the Government that Mr. Fawcett having notified his intention of retiring from the public service on the 15th instant, Mr. Cousins had been appointed to be Director of Agriculture and Island Chemist as from the 16th instant provisionally, subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State. This appointment was later confirmed. The Board passed a resolution placing on record its appreciation of Mr. Fawcett's services as Deputy Chairman of the Society for eight years.

CLARENDON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION FUND.—The sum of £24 3s. 10d. was handed over to the Board by the Trustees of the late Clarendon Agricultural Association, to be used solely for the furtherance of agriculture in Clarendon. After consideration of proposals, it was thought that this could be most effectively used as a reserve fund in the furtherance of teaching the art of making jippi jappa hats to girls in the parish of Clarendon. The first class is in operation in Frankfield district.

RUBBER EXHIBITION.—It was intimated that a Rubber Exhibition would be held in London on 21st to 26th September, 1908, at which it was asked that Jamaica be represented by exhibits. It was found, however, that we could not get up exhibits that would have done us credit.

COTTON CONFERENCE.—The following representatives attended the great Cotton Conference held in Manchester in August: the Hon. H. Clarence Bourne, Chairman of the Board of Agriculture; Mr. Conrad Watson, member of the Board of Agriculture; Mr. J. R. Williams, member of the Board of Management.

Mr. Watson submitted a report which was published in the JOURNAL for October 1908, and Mr. Williams (who was on leave of absence at the time) is also to submit a report.

DIPPING TANKS.—Messrs. Cooper & Co., Berkhampstead, England, made the offer of providing a dipping tank or cattle bath in a central district, if the co-operation of penkeepers could be got to use this tank. Owing to the drought at the time the offer was not taken up by any one, but it is still hoped to get such a tank tried.

ORANGE TRADE.—A copy of a report by the British Consul at Barcelona in Spain, which was asked for by Sir Daniel Morris through the Colonial Office, was received, and extracts printed in the JOURNAL for August. This report showed that much the same abuses of the trade existed in Spain as here.

IMPORT DUTY ON LIVE STOCK.—On the representations of the Board, the import duty on live stock was withdrawn as regards pure-bred stock imported for breeding purposes, but applicable only to stock imported from British possessions, India, and the United States. This concession appears not to be properly understood, and cases have been re-

porters contended should be free. The Customs were in all cases acting rightly. For instance, stock from Cuba or Porto Rico, are not free, and stock not pure-bred or without a certificate of breeding, are not free; geldings in the case of horses, or horses imported primarily for racing purposes, or as a speculation to sell immediately, are not free of duty. Only certificated pure-bred stock imported for breeding purposes are free of duty.

SHIPMENT OF ORANGES.—Complaints having been made of the wretched condition of certain shipments of oranges sent to England by the S. S. *Port Kingston* and *Port Royal*, the assertion being, that as the quality of the fruit and the packing were the same as usual, conditions on board the steamers must be at fault, as oranges carried perfectly well on the Elders & Fyffes steamers, the longer journey, via Port Limon, to Manchester, representations were made to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. on the matter. The Company held that the steamers were fitted with the best installations known, and that while it was impossible to give full justice to oranges while carrying bananas, still they held their steamers landed the oranges in good condition four times out of five.

WHITE SCALE.—Letters were received from orange growers of all classes, and shippers in Clarendon, St. Ann, and Manchester, reporting on the great prevalence and virulence of the White Scale; on the imminent danger of loss of many orange and lime trees in their parishes, and on the futility of any one interested orange grower washing and spraying his trees regularly, while his neighbours did nothing. Particulars of treatment by the lime, sulphur and salt wash, were again published in the JOURNAL and a special circular issued to Branch Societies calling attention to this trouble and urging the advisability of cleaning their citrus trees.

The direct cause of the great prevalence of white scale, it was explained, was the effects of the long drought, and it was expected that with regular rains, this pest would to a large extent, decrease. but pointing out at the same time that it was not prudent to trust to this. Reports from some of the Branches show that some members have begun to treat their trees as desired.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION.—The Society was asked to take part in the Exhibition to be held in November, but notified that funds would not allow of their doing so.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ANIMALS LAW.—The Government was asked whether anything was proposed to be done in connection with the Board's recommendation that a Contagious Diseases Animals Law should be applied in the Colony. The reply was that His Excellency would further consider the question of introducing legislation in this matter in the next year's session of the Legislative Council.

STALLION.—The stallion Sir Gerald, stationed in the care of Mr. Arnett at Gibraltar in St. Ann, has been kept in fine condition; in spite of many changes of studmasters and much travelling, the stallion is never ill. He has been taken to several shows during the half year including Mears Pen, Christiana, and Port Maria. An offer was made for him by an Agricultural Company in Colombia, but after consideration it was decided not to sell him ont of the Island.

RAT VIRUS.—Further samples of the Liverpool Rat Virus were provided for trial, and Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. also supplied samples of their preparation "Azoa." The members receiving samples have reported negative results. The Director of Agriculture has prepared a local Virus, but this is only successful by innoculation. This has been widely tested by the distribution of innoculated rats, but with varying results. Special preparations or the same preparation packed in a special manner

LIST OF PLANTERS.—At the request of the Secretary of the W. I. Committee, who asked if he could from time to time be supplied with a list of planters open to take young men desirous of learning tropical agriculture, as pupils. The Secretary was instructed to prepare such a list.

MARQUEES.—On the suggestion of the Bath Branch, three marquees were purchased from the Assistance Committee for use of Shows to save putting up temporary buildings, and have been found efficient for the purpose of holding the exhibits of agricultural products.

GRANTS.—A further grant of £10 in addition to what was made in the present year, was made to help to provide deserving settlers in St. Elizabeth with seeds and plants to re-stock their grounds. His Excellency and Mr. Bourne also gave personal contributions of £5 for this purpose. A grant of £10 was also made to Mr. Palache, to continue the experiment ground in St. Elizabeth for another year.

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.—The competition this year is being held in St. Andrew, St, James, Clarendon, and St. Elizabeth. Owing to Mr. Cradwick being absent on leave, and requiring extension of his leave through illness, there has been some difficulty in arranging for a substitute to act in all the parishes, so as to secure uniformity and strict impartiality in the judging. It has been arranged that Mr. Arnett take Mr. Cradwick's place, the Hon. Director of Agriculture agreeing to recommend the transfer of part of Mr. Cradwick's lapsed travelling allowance to assist Mr. Arnett's expenses.

SHOWS.—The following Shows have been held up to 30th September, and the following grants made to them:—

Mears Pen, April 20th	- -	£ 6	12	3
Christiana, ,, 21st	- -	£ 7	2	1
Porus ,, 30th	- -	£ 8	10	5
Hanover, August 3rd	- -	£ 5	4	0
St. Ann, ,, ,,	- -	£10	0	0
St. Mary ,, 6th	- -	£10	0	0

Shows have also been arranged to be held at Kendal, Santa Cruz, Newmarket, Sav.-la-Mar and Bath, to all of which grants have been allocated.

The Secretary has attended all these Shows held, and has arranged to attend the others with the exception of Newmarket and Santa Cruz.

At least one Instructor was present at each of these Shows, with the exception of Santa Cruz, held on the same day as Newmarket Show.

A grant was also made to Hampstead Show held on 23rd April, but through not conforming to the rules it was forfeited.

BULLS.—The Shorthorn bull "Desmond," presented by His Majesty the King, which arrived in the Island in October, 1903, died at Worthy Park in June last.

The red shorthorn bull "Henbury Beau" was brought to Kingston from Montego Bay. He was in very poor and anaemic condition, and instead of being sold, was on the application of the Hon. Director of Agriculture, sent to Hope Gardens to be kept there and stand for service, when brought into condition.

The roan Shorthorn bull "Henbury Favourite" was brought from Weston Favel in Trelawny to Tobolski, Brown's Town, meantime, and is to be brought into Kingston, put in good condition and sold at auction to the highest bidder, provided the bull is for use in the Island.

The King's Hereford bull "Sylvester" is meantime stationed with Mr. Kenneth Roxburgh at Annandale, St. Ann.

EXPERIMENTS.—We have an allocation of £5 for this, and the Secretary has been able to have tested various proprietary articles likely to be of use to agriculture. For the treatment of all growing vegetables,

specially for the destruction of pests, some of these are cheaper and safer than Paris green; and pending seedsmen stocking some of these, the office keeps supplies now on hand for sale.

INSTRUCTORS.—There has been no change in the staff of Agricultural Instructors since the previous report. They have submitted their proposed itineraries each month, as usual, together with their actual itineraries of work fulfilled on the printed forms provided, and also short reports concerning the work. In these reports the number of persons at the meetings they attend and the number of holdings visited is required to be noted. They also submit a list of the franked envelopes used. While the Secretary keeps in close touch with the work of the Society's Instructors and suggestions and directions are made to them, they are not bound down so closely as not to be able to use their own discretion and their own initiative to a considerable extent. Since the districts were defined and Instructors placed definitely for a period of years in each district, the work has been systemized and is being carried through on well defined lines with definite aims in view. As far as possible the Instructors keep in touch with local Branch Societies and attend the meetings of the Branches in their district at least once a quarter, but this does not always fit in with their itineraries. A system is being gradually brought into effect of having the local committee arrange the holdings to be visited consecutively, instead of being taken at random so as to economize the Instructors time and travelling.

The Instructors are supplied with stationery to a limited extent; they are also allowed to use franked envelopes, for all of which they have to account at the end of each month.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.—There are now 64 Branch Societies, 41 of which are in good working order and send reports regularly; 18 are not doing very much work, but only require regular visits from Instructors to be stimulated into active existence, and 5 are moribund, and would require periodical visits from the Secretary and Instructors to resuscitate them. The following new Branches have been affiliated since date of last Report: Guy's Hill, Comfort Hall, (St. Elizabeth) Central St. Mary, Bull Head, Hector's River. Metcalfe, Castleton, Springfield (St. Elizabeth), St. Thomas-in-ye-Vale, Above Rocks. There were previously Branches at Above Rocks and Guy's Hill, which became defunct, but which have now been resuscitated. It is a pity that Instructors cannot visit Branches more often and spend more time at the holdings of members of the Branches, but the districts are too large still for the close attention to Branches and holdings that would result in great good and for which the people are now ripe. There are great differences in districts—some are eager for Instructors visits; the members of the Branches turn out largely to meetings, and are very receptive—it is a pity this inclination cannot be taken advantage of; in other districts people are slow to move and are very suspicious of anything emanating or presumed to emanate from the Government, but even in these districts a steady, persistent propaganda and regular policy would result in winning the people's confidence.

OFFICE.—On 1st August we moved into our new office at No. 11 North Parade, after having been in temporary quarters at the old Mico in Hanover Street since the earthquake. The premises have been rented from the Government at a rental of £4 per month and the location is very convenient for the city. We have now good store room and ample yard room. An allocation of £50 to provide fittings and furniture for the new office was granted, of which £30 6s. 6d. only has been spent. With the work we have to undertake it is an absolute necessity to work late, but there is no light in the office, except a small oil lamp. It would be most useful therefore if electric light could be installed in the office. The staff consists as before of the Secretary, a senior clerk, a junior clerk, a typist and an office messenger. There are now 64 Branch Societies to keep in

touch with; about 4,000 wrappers to be addressed for JOURNALS every month; 2,170 letters have been received during the half year; 2,874 letters issued; 549 receipts received for payments made, and 528 receipts issued for payments received. The Agricultural JOURNAL has been issued monthly with an average of 36 pages of reading matter and 31 pages of advertisements.

The usual work of supplying such seeds as are most useful to agriculturists and are not stocked by seedsmen, or being the medium of supply of such, has been carried on. These seeds include cow peas, guinea corn, seed corn (maize), guinea grass seed, coconuts, etc., we have continued to encourage the purchase of vegetable seeds. The principle we have worked on has been very instrumental in spreading the cultivation of vegetables. We commenced 10 years ago by giving away packets of vegetable seeds judiciously to small settlers throughout the country and gradually the desire to cultivate vegetables both for home use and for sale has thus been formed. Now the seeds are all purchased. We have also been the medium of the supply of native arrowroot for the Public Institutions, and since April supplied value to the amount of £115. For the convenience of jippi jappa classes, and those who have learned the art, where straw is not available locally, we have been the medium of supplying the straw to the extent of £5 11s. 3d.

The Secretary's work has as usual consisted in attending to all the varied correspondence in the office, business for the Board, papers for Committees, keeping in touch with Branch Societies, visiting some Branches occasionally, and also the Instructors districts, travelling to Shows, checking Prize Lists (which so far as shows in connection with Branches are concerned are all submitted to him), often arranging for printing these, and arranging for other Branch enterprises like Penny Banks; preparing the Agricultural JOURNAL, arranging for supplies of seeds, such as vegetable seeds and seed corn, guinea corn, cow peas, etc., overlooking the receipt and despatch of seeds, acting as medium of supply of all kinds of live stock for breeding purposes, and he receives as exchanges five quarterlies, 18 monthlies, 3 fortnightlies, and 10 weeklies, besides pamphlets from several Agricultural Departments, and their annual reports, all of which he is expected to peruse.

The chief clerk attends to the despatch of correspondence, keeps the books, acts as accountant, checks the despatch of seeds, etc., attends to all other business he can when the Secretary is travelling.

The junior clerk addresses 4,000 wrappers per month, and despatches the JOURNAL, attends to the Branch lists of members, makes up supplies of any kind for despatch, attends to shipping, files letters, etc.

The typist executes all correspondence, statements for Committees and the Board, registers letters as received, makes clippings from papers and journals as marked by the Secretary and files documents.

Mr. Craig moved the adoption of the report, Mr. Campbell seconded and it was unanimously accepted.

ALTERATION OF RULES.—The Governor said that owing to the proposal to abolish the Board of Agriculture and transfer some of its functions to the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society, and some to the Department of Agriculture, it was necessary to alter some of the rules of the Agricultural Society. One of the new rules provided that the control of all the Instructors should be placed under the Instructors' Committee of that Board, with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, and it was also proposed that three of the members of the Board of Agriculture, viz: the Archbishop, Mr. DeMercado and Mr. Conrad Watson should be made members of the Board of Management until the next triennial election.

Mr. Craig asked what the powers of the Director of Agriculture in his capacity as Chairman of the Instructors' Committee would be.

The Governor said the Chairman would as in other Committees have an original vote and a casting vote. There was no proposal to hav special rules regarding the powers of the Chairman. Of course, if th Director, as head of the Department of Agriculture, found that he wa hopelessly at variance with the members of the Committee—but he di not think that would be the case—as regards the officers of his depart ment, he would have to report it to the Governor, and he would requir to consider whether to reconstitute the Committee.

Resolutions were then passed on the motion of Mr. Bertram, amend ing the rules of the Society so that the position of Deputy Chairman o the Board should be abolished and the Director of Agriculture become a *ex officio* member of the Board; also admitting as members of the Board the Archbishop, Mr. deMercado and Mr. Watson, as follows:—

(1) That in Rule 3 the words "A Deputy Chairman" after the word "Vice-presidents" be deleted.

(2) That in the first paragraph of Rule 5, the words "Director o Agriculture" be inserted after the word "President."

That the second paragraph of Rule 5 dealing with the duties of th Deputy Chairman be deleted.

(3) That in Rule 7 the words "Director of Agriculture *ex officio*" b introduced after the words "Vice-Presidents" and the words "Deput Chairman" be deleted.

(4) That Rule 7 which limits the ordinary members of the Board t 15 to be suspended till the next meeting for the election of office bearers in June 1911, so as to admit of the following members of the Board o Agriculture being added to the Board:—His Grace the Archbishop, Mr. C. E. deMercado, and Mr. Conrad Watson.

Mr Craig seconded, and the resolutions were agreed to.

ROADS.—MOTION BY MR. VENTRESSE.—Mr. Ventresse moved the following resolution:—"That considering many of the main roads of the Island are in a condition far from satisfactory, the Government be asked to introduce some system of supervision whereby the money expended for the upkeep of roads may be more equitably divided in proportion to the taxation of the parishes." He read the following statement:—

In introducing this motion I am actuated by but one desire, i.e., equity. If all parts of the Island have bad roads, I am willing to endure the same till times improve. But if some parts have *good roads*, and others *bad*, then I think it is time we inquire the reason and seek remedies; so that any false system of retrenchment whereby roads are being literally starved out of existence may cease. (I have the authority of the Director of Public Works for this statement).

At one time we had District Engineers; men of wisdom said we no longer had use for them. What is the result? The Director of Public Works in his annual report says:—"The roads in the parish of X are in fair order," while in fact they are nothing of the kind. The Director of Public Works is not to be blamed for the statement, nor is it to be thought he is either telling an untruth, or deceiving the public. Nothing of the kind. He is simply reporting matters as reported to him. And why does he get such reports? It is all a matter of comparison from various individual standpoints. Let me ask what would be the condition of our schools without Inspectors! And when each individual teacher reported to the Schools Department and from these the head of that department had to compile a report what would be its real value? And what better would be the report of the Director of Public Works, so far as the parishes are concerned? Now, far be it from me to reflect in the slightest degree upon any Superintendent of Roads, but it must be remembered that many of these men have limited appropriations to maintain these roads and they are bound to report that the roads are in fair

order, or it would be taken at headquarters as a confession of weakness. Many people may not be aware that in some parishes the only means of restoring storm damages is to take the allocation for that particular road and use it for that purpose. And the road must starve for the remainder of the year and to such an extent is this carried that even mules for working on the roads must be bought out of the appropriation for the roads. The result is that the roadbeds themselves are hiding their faces for very shame, because their body is not kept decently dressed.

Now, is it not possible to have a competent supervisor over the Superintendents whose reports, owing to the position in which they are placed, are bound to be comparatively uniform; while an impartial observer would find need for great changes in appropriations, and such reports should tend to give each parish her fair share of money for roads, and her fair share of good roads? This is purely an agricultural question, because if roads are improved, cultivations will be extended, and the produce can then be taken to market; whereas under present conditions it is frequently impossible to market even that which is grown.

Mr. Douet seconded the motion for purposes of discussion.

Mr. Bertram suggested that if the mover would alter the words "the Government" to the "Legislative Council" he would have the support of the entire meeting. In regard to the first proposition the Government had made the strongest representations to the Legislative Council to vote the means to exercise more supervision, but failed to convince them, so that it was hardly fair to tax the Government with any dereliction of duty. It was very clearly pointed out to the Legislative Council that it was the very worst form of economy to the Colony to insist upon a large programme of public works with a ridiculously inadequate staff to carry out those works.

Mr. Ventresse said he would be very pleased to make the alteration suggested. The question was one which affected the whole Island, and its agricultural interests.

Mr. Craig said that he agreed with Mr. Ventresse's motion, but he thought this was a matter that should be given notice of so that the points raised could be thought over.

Mr. Ventresse then gave notice that his resolution be brought up at the next Half-yearly Meeting.—Agreed.

RESOLUTION FROM METCALFE.—A resolution from the Metcalfe Branch was submitted, asking that the full account of the proceedings of the Board of Management be printed and sent to the Secretaries of each Branch Society. After discussion the matter was referred to the Board of Management.

Mr. Cox of St. Ann asked if there was any possibility of having an Instructor for each parish of the island.

The Director of Agriculture said the Governor had called upon him, in view of economies which had been effected in the Department of Public Gardens, to draw up such a scheme as referred to by Mr. Cox, and it was submitted to the Board of Agriculture and recommended to the Government. The scheme would entail a considerable expense, and it remained with the Governor and the Legislative Council to decide whether it should be carried out this year. The Governor saw that it was a desirable thing to do, and wished it to be done if possible.

PRÆDIAL LARCENY.—Mr. Martin asked what had become of the Prædial Larceny Bill.

The Acting Colonial Secretary said that the Prædial Larceny Bill had been returned to the Colony by the Secretary of State for certain small amendments. The Bill would be re-introduced at the coming session of the Legislature, and these amendments would be duly made when the Bill would become law.

Mr. Linton of Above Rocks stated that the Branch at Above Rocks had complained that they were seldom visited by an Instructor. They had only had three visits, and each time a different Instructor.

The Secretary stated that Above Rocks district was mostly in St. Catherine, but for convenience in travelling was placed in the district under the Instructor for St. Andrew, Mr. Briscoe. The Director of Agriculture said he would arrange for Mr. Briscoe to visit Above Rocks.

The meeting then terminated.

THE PROPER PREPARATION OF PRODUCE FOR THE MARKETS.

UNDER the above heading three articles appeared in the JOURNAL for November 1908, page 370. One of these was written by Mr. Hirst, the Instructor, and he wrote very honestly and straightforwardly. We ask readers interested to refer to the articles. He stated that until the buying of produce is run on a better system there was little use of an Instructor talking about curing produce better, that he should more turn his attention to talking about securing large crops from the same area.

When the Society's Agricultural Instructors were first appointed, experimentally, in Manchester and St. Ann, the primary object was, to quote the exact words of the appointment—"To improve the quality of produce in their district with special regard to coffee."

We soon saw that under the prevailing conditions it was vain to confine interest principally, or even largely, to quality, and the work was in the main directed to better cultivation of the land, thinning out of trees, pruning, and especially manuring. In fact, mainly directed, as Mr. Hirst states, the work should be directed, to securing larger crops from the same area. And this has been done to a considerable extent. It is interesting to note that although there are now only four large coffee plantations in Manchester and there have been successions of hard seasons, the production of coffee from that parish is not diminished, small settlers are keeping up the output. There was also in suitable districts the advocacy of planting more cocoa, by careful methods, and also after careful selection of seeds. This also has had great results.

If reference is made to what has been written in the Agricultural JOURNAL, since the year 1902, after publishing an article on "Quality of Produce," the correspondence arising out of which made us inquire into and examine conditions very closely and enlarge our views, it may be noted that comparatively little has been said as to quality of produce (excepting fruit, which is on a different footing), and as the years followed, less and less has been said of it, because we understood more and more what was in the minds of our small cultivators, and realised more and more what they had to contend with. But it may be observed in the JOURNAL, how much [illegible]
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At the same time we have explained carefully and fully to small cultivators how they could help themselves very much by co-operating in the way we suggested—not by shipping abroad themselves as they always hankered to do, under a misconception of the conditions of marketing, but by the members of a Branch Society arranging to cure their produce well, make terms with local merchants for the buying of their produce, so that they might have an appreciable quantity of a certain quality to offer and so secure a better price. When they get so far along as to be able to co-operate in this simple way, then they might go a step further.

We wrote explicitly about this in the JOURNAL of April 1902, from which we quote below.

Since then practically nothing has been done by members of Branch Societies in this direction although there has all along been this talk about marketing produce more profitably, and we have written numerous letters at great length to correspondents, and talked of the subject whenever we attended meetings of Branches, when the matter was broached.

Co-operation involves an absence of jealousy and a willingness to give as well as to take—to sacrifice a present trifle presently, for ultimate better results generally. This co-operative spirit is generally supposed to be rare here ; our people are said not to be built that way. We are afraid this has been true, but yet there is now a constant, if still vague, desire expressed for co-operation. We have seen the desire put into practice occasionally in simple ways—the formation of local Agricultural Societies, the Penny Banks, and one Loan Bank in connection with them, are all the beginnings of a co-operation that can be guided on to further developments. But there must be more effort to put desire and talk at meetings into practice outside of the meetings. It must be understood that it is everybody's business to begin himself and talk to his neighbour about it.

(Extract from Journal for April 1902).

One man in a neighbourhood cares for his produce, takes pains to cure it well, and takes his small quantity to a local store, but he finds that he can only get the same price as before. Why ? Because there is not enough for the storekeepers to put it in a class by itself; it goes into and is lost in the bulk of the low grade, and it would thus never pay a buyer to give more for it. It is this too, that makes it hard for us, and our Agricultural Instructors to make good headway among the people. There are always some industrious and enterprising cultivators who have the hearing ears, and the understanding hearts and are really anxious to exercise care, and we know scores who have altered their ways of running their places entirely—they cultivate, prune, and manure their crops, they cure their produce well, but where these are isolated individuals among the many careless and conservative, it is most disheartening, after all their trouble, to get the same price of their cured cocoa and coffee,—a losing one to them,—as their happy-go-lucky neighbours. And it is this that meets us, and is told to our Instructors, at every turn. It is no use to blame local merchants entirely for not encouraging a better class of produce; they would like to, for good produce gives them less trouble in every way than bad, and it is easier to sell, but they are not philanthro-
pists, and cannot be expected to lose by giving more for small occa-

sional lots, when they themselves would only get the usual price for the average sample of the whole. The remedy is of course to make the better grades more appreciable, and it would be useful and practical for the Instructors to organise their clients produce so that those who are wishful to work to get better results may be rewarded for their efforts. It should be the aim and duty of Branch Societies to bring their members together and encourage them to co-operate with their produce so that instead of going singly and at different times to the store with small quantities of good produce, five or six or ten of them could weigh their stuff, mark their bags, put it together and go to the storekeeper. The latter would then be in a position to put the produce apart in a class by itself and give 3s. or 4s. more per cwt.

A case in point brought this forcibly to us. An enterprising small settler came to us with a note from the Secretary of the Glengoffe Branch, asking us to try and introduce the bearer to a good merchant who would be likely to offer more for the well-cured cocoa as he was offered for unfermented. Now as the latter holds more moisture, and has often some mildew beside, it weighs heavier than the cured, so that the man would actually be a loser in weight after all his care and trouble expended. We explained the position to the man, urged him to put the matter before his Branch Society, and try to get half-dozen others to combine with him there, and instead of being offered 30s. per 100 lbs. locally, they would get 34s. and possibly 40s., if not locally, then in Kingston, as the sample he shewed was a very fair, light-coloured cocoa. This settler had come to Kingston via Bog Walk, and paid drayage and rail on a considerable quantity of cocoa in the hopes of doing better. We wrote a note and sent him to a local firm which is generally as liberal as possible. Their letter explains the position:—'For ordinary cocoa we are paying 34s. and the bearer's cocoa is worth 3s. to 4s. more owing to its being fermented and better cured, but the great difficulty with people like ourselves is that one doesn't get enough of this quality to make a shipment, and whatever we pay more for gets merged into the lower class for which we get no more, and it sometimes happens that samples are drawn from these bags on the other side, but the contrast is so great that we are mulct in allowances besides. We have offered him 37s. per 100 lbs. which we think full value with the present price of 52s. to 53s. per cwt. abroad, and the expenses being from 14s. to 17s. according to loss in weight, etc.'

We urge Branch Societies to take this matter up; it is one of the advantages of having such organizations that they can use opportunities such as this, and in a year may effect much practical good in their districts. There is too much tall talk of doing co-operative shipping business, and it comes to nothing—the smaller people are too suspicious of an over-sea business direct. Begin small, co-operate where it can be so easily, quickly, and obviously done within the comprehension of the small settler.

That was in 1902, and this is 1909. Members of Branch Societies are still talking in the same strain. We hope they will now act.

It may be true as Mr. Hirst says, that if the big merchants would say, "we shall only buy this grade of produce and anything better, nothing lower in quality," the producer would soon provide the required quality just as in the banana trade poor or bruised fruit is rejected. But this would probably mean that the merchants here would have to move other and larger merchants over the sea,

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ESSENTIAL OILS.

Those who are thinking of utilising some of the large quantities of sweet and bitter or seville oranges that go entirely to waste here, by extracting the Essential Oil from the rind by means of the simple contrivance called Orange Rinder or Ecuelli to which we have called attention lately; and who have had no experience with the oils before are naturally anxious to know what are the prices offered for them. Of course prices fluctuate, and when we name a price likely to accrue, and it is not realised no matter from what cause—a drop in the market, stuff badly prepared, or badly put up, our friends let us hear about it. It must be plainly understood that when we are quoting prices for Essential Oils they are the prices now current; that they are higher than usual and likely to go even a little higher for a short time owing to the great earthquake disaster in Messina in Sicily, which has dislocated trade there. Sicily is the great exporter of Essential Oils as well as of citrate of lime and lemons.

The price given in St. Ann just now (February) by buyers for oil of sweet oranges is 4/ per ordinary quart bottle, and 2/8 per ordinary quart bottle for the oil of Seville orange.

We have before us, the actual account sales of a consignment of three cases of oil of Seville orange and one case of oil of sweet orange. The sweet realised 7/ per lb. and the Seville 5/8 per lb., and 1-7th should be deducted for marketing expenses; but since the Messina disaster referred to, oil of sweet orange has sold as high as 13/ and Seville at 8/. There is no telling, of course, how soon the production in Sicily will recover, but should they be in a position there soon to resume supplies, the market is bound to drop. It must be remembered that there is no great outlet for this oil, but we have a chance now to get into the market, and if this small industry is well organised it could be made difficult for us once in, to be put out of the market. We trust therefore that whoever takes up this industry will take very great care with the preparation of the oil, for simple as it is, it can be easily spoiled by rancidity.

REPORT ON THE ST. ANDREW'S PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION, 1908-1909.

I beg to report that from November 30th to December 22nd in company with Mr. Briscoe I judged the Holdjngs entered for the Prize Holdings Competition in the Parish of St. Andrew for the year 1908-1909. The Competition was highly successful and the Society is again to be congratulated on the amount of actual improvement accomplished by the Competition on a number of the individual Holdings, and in some instances throughout the entire districts. The judging was carried through without difficulty and as expeditiously as possible commensurate with efficiency.

1. *Number of Holdings entered.*—There were 92 Holdings entered for the Competition. This was satisfactory and gratifying to all concerned.

showing the increased interest taken in the matter throughout the parish as compared with the former Competition, when in some of the classes there were not sufficient entries to admit of the prizes being awarded, even although there were individual holdings of sufficient merit, 91 were visited and 88 were examined and judged, four were withdrawn from the Competition, three not having made any preparation did not wish to have their holdings judged and Mr. H. Lindo of Florence Hall who had been sick for some time unfortunately died on the same day his holding should have been judged.

2. *Average number of points obtained.*—The average number of points obtained is somewhat below the average previously obtained in the other parishes. This is partly accounted for by the fact that very little attention is given to keeping or raising stock and especially to small stock on most of the holdings, and also to the fact that many of the holdings were deficient in fences. There is great need for much more attention to be given to these two things on practically all the holdings visited. But the low average obtained as compared with the average *previously* obtained in the other parishes is perhaps more especially due to the fact that it was thought advisable at this time to set to some extent a new scale of points in the judging of the holdings. I am of the opinion that Mr. Cradwick who has previously conducted the judging, and who at the first set the scale of points would agree with this, as he has several times mentioned to me that in his opinion the time had come when on this point as well as some other minor points, there should be some revision. In giving marks the fact that the prizes are offered for the "*best kept*" holdings has been kept in view, and in accordance with the first part of Rule 10 the marks have been given for the actual care taken of the cultivation, and especially for any direct and intelligent effort in pruning individual trees or the thinning out of the cultivation where necessary, rather than for the extent of area of the cultivation. With this explanation I trust that the Board of Management will consent to the payment of the prizes awarded and the special prizes asked for, although the total number of marks scored by the prize winners is below the number scored by the prize winners in previous Competitions.

3. *The amount of interest taken in the actual judging of the Holdings by the Competitors.*—While a great deal of credit is due to the greater number of the competitors for the actual and direct improvements made on their holdings in connection with the Competition, and for the amount of interest displayed by them in preparing their holdings for the judging, and for the actual interest they took in the actual *judging* itself, being in some cases apparently most anxious for the Judges to walk the line of their holdings, and look into every hole and corner of the cultivation as well as to notice every item of stock, tools, etc., which on a 20 acre holding in the extremely hilly districts of St. Andrew was no simple matter, involving an amount of time, and labour which no one who has not been the Judge of Prize Holdings is able to realize, yet on the other hand much disappointment was felt at the lack of interest displayed by others. Nothing had been done either to improve or to prepare their holdings for the Competition, and while the holding was being judged took little or no interest in it, on the whole the amount of interest and enthusiasm which is displayed by the competitors in the other parishes on the day of the judging was lacking.

4. *Points of lasting benefit derived by the Competition.*—We have again to bear testimony to the actual and lasting good accomplished by the Competition in the permanent improvement of the holdings. In several instances roads were pointed out to us which were made through the cultivation at the time of the first Competition and still kept in good order. Mr. Thomson was a strong advocate for good roads through the cultivation—a very necessary thing. We were also shown fruit and eco-

nomic trees distributed in the time when Mr. Geo. Douet was Secretary, being well cared and in good condition. During the present Competition more good roads have been made, and in several cases strong useful gates have been put up and fences erected. In other instances houses have been improved and enlarged. The cultivations have also received their share of attention. Better methods of cultivation are being adopted, more intelligent interest is being taken in pruning, and in the curing of produce.

If Mr. Thomson was an apostle of good roads, Mr. Briscoe is an apostle of good sanitation. He appears to have laid great stress on this point, endeavouring to arouse in the people a due regard for every detail which goes to make the home and surroundings healthful and sanitary, and on a level with all the advantages provided by the influence of religion, education, and general civilization. The manner in which the lesson has caught on simply amazes, and delights one. There was scarcely a holding where some attempt had not been made to directly improve the sanitary condition of the place, and many of the efforts were exceedingly creditable. With good roads, improved methods of cultivation, of pruning, and of curing the produce, and better sanitation; if the competitors would give more attention to stock, especially small stock, so as to use up the refuse now going to waste on the holdings and provide manure for the land, giving at the same time attention to fencing, there are holdings in St. Andrew which in a short time would be equal to any in any part of the Island.

5. *I beg again to call attention to the great usefulness of the Competition* as a means of bringing the Instructor into direct contact with the people, there is no other way in which he can find such a ready entrance into their holdings, and gain such an attentive hearing. In every Competition the Instructor is introduced to new holdings, and in some instances even new districts, as was the case in the present Competition.

6. *The distribution of the prizes.*—I beg to suggest the advisability of as far as possible holding public meetings at convenient centres for the distribution of the prizes, and of taking that opportunity of pointing out to the unsuccessful competitors the part of their holdings needing more attention. Competitors at times become discouraged for want of such explanation, as much as from not obtaining a prize.

7. *I herewith attach a schedule of awards* and trust the Society will see its way to grant the extra prizes asked for.

In the first class there are 16 competitors. We recommend three special prizes of 4/ each. While the total number of marks scored by these Competitors does not entitle them to a prize, yet they have well kept permanent crops. Mr. William Douglas is especially deserving of mention as he had worked very hard to improve his holding.

In the second class there are 20 competitors. We recommend four special prizes of 4/ each, three of them for especially well kept coffee, and the other for general improvement.

In the third class there are 52 competitors. We recommend six special prizes of 4/ each, two for well kept permanent crops, two for especially good catch crops, one for an exceedingly tidy holding with good general condition and sanitation. and one good fences.

Their names are given on the schedule of marks attached. We feel sure that if these special prizes are granted they will be much appreciated and will do much good as most of them go to districts where there is special need for more attention to be given to the points for which the prize is awarded. It has so happened that the prizes have been fairly well distributed all over the Parish, although there are some districts in which the holdings are all more or less backward, and require extra time and attention.—I have the honour to remain, your obedient servant, E. Arnett.

REPORT ON THE ST. JAMES PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION, 1908-1909.

I beg to report that from January 4th to the 13th and from the 19th to the 22nd I was engaged with Mr. Mennell in judging the holdings entered for competition, in the St. James Prize Holdings Competition for the year 1908-1909.

1. *Number of Competitors.*—There were 45 entries—15 in the first class, 12 in the second class, and 18 in the third class. Most of these were competitors in the first Competition, a few new ones have come in, while for various reasons a number have withdrawn, several having had to withdraw on account of Rule 3 which was not strictly enforced during the first Competition, some have also had to compete in a smaller class not being able this time to enter their cultivations which were detached from the holding. In one or two instances new competitors have won the prize over the old competitors.

2. *Condition of the Holdings and progress made.*—The work on all the holdings has been fairly well maintained and the progress and improvement on several has been especially good.

In the *first class there were 15 entries:* the second prize winner this time only obtained a special prize for stock in the first Competition.

The first prize goes to a holding entered for the first time, as also the third and fifth. The fourth prize winner took a higher place in the first Competition, but has been out-classed this time by holdings having more general improvement. In this class a special prize is asked for, for a new competitor, in a district which is entirely new to the Competition.

In the *second class there were 12 entries.* The first prize goes to a new competitor in a district new to the Competition, who has worked exceedingly hard in building walks, and in other ways improving his holding. Mr. Geo. E. White the second prize winner obtained a special prize in the first Competition, which encouraged him so much that he has worked exceedingly hard to improve his holding for the present Competition. He has brought up his holding to a very creditable condition, well worthy of a first prize, but has not sufficient cultivation on the holding, as he has these on a piece of land detached, but scoring full points otherwise.

The third prize winner took a higher prize last time in another class from which he was shut out this time by Rule 3.

The fourth prize winner did not obtain a prize in the first Competition, but has very much improved his holding.

The fifth prize winner got a special in first Competition. Two specials are recommended in this class, one for Mr. Ed. Parkins, who has exceedingly promising young cocoa, the other for well kept stock.

In the third class there were 18 entries. The first prize in this class is again awarded to Miss Kelly, who won it in the first Competition. There was very keen competition between her holding and the holding which gets the second prize, a new competitor. If Mr. I. Armstrong continues to work as hard as he has done he is almost bound to take first prize next time, his holding is a most promising one. The third prize winner took a higher place in another class in the first Competition, but Rule 3 prevented him entering in the same class this year. The fourth prize winner also took a higher place in the first Competition, but has been out-classed by holdings with a larger area of cultivation. This holding being less than two acres, but it is exceedingly well kept. The fifth prize winner also took a higher place in the first Competion in another class, but was shut out this year by Rule 3. Four special prizes are recommended in this class, one for good catch crops, two for permanent crops, and one for house and

good general conditions. The average number of marks scored by the prize winners is lower than in former Competitions, for the same reasons as those given in the case of St. Andrew. We trust that the Society will see its way to give the special prizes recommended as they do a great deal of good, as is instanced in the present Competition.

3. *The great advantage of visiting the Parish for a second time.*—I have been exceedingly interested in judging the holdings in this Parish for the second time. It has been of great benefit to me and I believe also to the competitors, as we have been able to compare the conditions of the holdings now with what they were at the time of the first Competition, and note in several instances vast improvement which has been made and have been gratified by seeing in several instances suggestions made at the time of the first Competition, carried out with a fair amount of success. In taking part in the judging of this Parish for a second time I have been more than ever impressed with the value of the Prize Holdings Competition as a means of directly improving the holdings of the people, and as a means of inducing them to continue in steady efforts for advancement. In my opinion there is no better way of getting the small settler to concentrate his time and efforts upon the improvement of his holding, and the establishment of permanent crops leading him to devote himself to the development of the lands attached to his home rather than the annual migration from place to place upon rented land. Since I last visited the parish I note with interest the advance which has been made in the planting of permanent crops especially cocoa. More attention is also being given to pruning. Mr. Mennell is a great advocate of drains, and his teaching in this direction is steadily taking hold, and in several instances with marked success. These points of improvement are most marked on the holdings entered for the Competition although the improvement made on some of the other holdings is gratifying.

4. While on the whole a great deal had been done to prepare the holdings for the Competition, and while in most districts there was a fair amount of interest and enthusiasm, yet on some of the holdings, and at any rate in one district there was not the amount of interest there should have been. In St. James as in St. Andrew there should be more attention given to stock keeping and especially raising small stock, and to fences and general conditions.

HINTS ON REARING POULTRY.

Setting Hens.

From the middle of January to the middle of April is the best time of the year to sit hens to hatch chickens. The large breeds like Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks and Indian Games should be hatched as early as possible as they take nine months to mature. Small breeds like Minorcas and Leghorns can be hatched later—March and April, as they mature in seven months as a rule. A good deal of course depends on the quality of the parent birds and the amount of care and feed given the chicks. There are precocious birds of the small breeds which begin laying at five months, but this is not a recommendation—they do not grow into good specimens of the breed as a rule.

Few people here use incubators, only those who hatch on a large scale. The mother hen suits most people's circumstances best. Good roomy hens should be selected for sitters. We ourselves use

turkey hens for hatching hens' eggs as they can cover 20 at a time, but turkey hens are not good mothers when the chickens are young, and we like to hand the chickens over to a hen to rear. Good large hens make the best sitters—hens that can cover 12 or 13 eggs, even more if the eggs are small, and fewer if the eggs are specially large.

The nests should be made in a quiet corner, preferably in a coop. The V-shaped coop resting on the ground in a quiet corner makes the best place. The earth should be hollowed out to the shape of a saucer and soft grass mixed with cedar leaves or sour-sop leaves, which help to keep away insects, or insect powder or sulphur sprinkled around the edge of the nest, not much in the nest as this may affect the eggs. As fowl lice are great enemies these precautions will assist in keeping them away. As soon as the hen is found to be sitting closely she can be moved to the nest where she is to sit in the evening and put on. She will take the eggs readily and after sitting till the next afternoon she can be lifted carefully out, a string tied to her feet, and fed and watered. By means of the string she can be easily caught; or she can be allowed to go back to her original nest and then taken and put back on the eggs. After a few days she will find the new nest herself. It is good to dust the hens before setting with insect powder if it can be got at hand, or failing that with sulphur, and if a paste composed of lard one tablespoonful, sulphur one dessert spoonful, kerosine one dessert spoonful, well mixed is made up, a little of this can be rubbed beneath her wings, back of her neck, and at her tail. This is a good preventive of fowl lice.

Often setting hens are inhumanly treated; they are put in boxes where they cannot come off and forgotten for two or three days. The sum of animal suffering in Jamaica through forgetfulness is *terrible. When people know they are careless and will not look* after things, the hen should be set where she can come off herself at will. It is not wise to set hens where they are accustomed to lay, or where other hens are laying, as other hens may lay in the nest after the setting has begun. This is quite common. Then again when hens sit, they do not get off in the morning or in the evening when the other hens are fed and so they miss meals, and if nobody watches when they come off to feed them they are starved. People who look after their fowls should therefore set them where they can take them off and feed them ; or where a door can be open or a coop lifted up and the hen allowed to come off at leisure ; feed can be flung down for them and the coop closed after the hen has gone back. It is curious how very ignorant people can be in the treatment of fowls, therefore we mention these apparently elementary details.

Hatching

In three weeks from setting a hen the eggs should hatch, but where the eggs are very fresh and the hen sits closely they may begin to hatch from the 19th day. We think the chickens are stronger when they take the full time and when the hens have

been allowed to come off every day and spend at least 20 minutes off the nest. There is no fear of eggs chilling in this climate even if the hens were off an hour. The hen should not be disturbed the day the hatching is taking place; it is good, however, when the hatching is thought to be about finished to slip the hand in below the hen in the evening and take out the broken shells. Some hens are fussy and cross and might hurt the chicks, if disturbed during the hatching, but in the evening when dark they are always quiet. There is no haste to feed chickens until they are at least 24 hours out of the eggs, and better 36 hours and even 46 hours would do good rather than harm before feeding is commenced. As a rule we trust to the hen herself. The hen should not be allowed to wander about, but be tied with a string to the coop. No fussy hens should be used if possible, but quiet hens that are easy to handle; and a real good sitter is worth keeping for some years, even although she is old and does not lay many eggs—we mean an especially good sitter, they are valuable. We are writing for private families, not for the very few who keep poultry on a large commercial scale.

The very best first food for chickens is small or cut earth worms, but as housewives may think to handle worms is nasty, a small boy can easily get some. Instead of cutting long worms in half, very small worms can be got by digging in the garden where it is moist and well manured. Such worms and a little coarse Scotch oatmeal makes the best food. But where Scotch oatmeal cannot be got in the country, a little brown rice can be used, and when eggs have not been fertile, and so have not hatched, yet remain good, these can be boiled hard and crumbled very small for the chickens. On the third day duck ants can be got, and we find the small red guinea corn that we are advocating to be grown, can be used successfully with young chickens, even as the first food, as we have experimented in this way, but certainly from the third day. Everybody can grow this guinea corn as food for poultry, and if fed to all poultry, lots of small chickens' lives can be saved where they are fed among hens, for they often die from picking up grains of large corn when they are too young. After a fortnight cracked country corn can be used. It is better not to use soft food much for chickens, but a few scraps and occasionally ripe bananas after a fortnight will help. In the first week chickens should be fed six times a day, a little at a time, four times in the second week and until they are a month old, after that three times a day will do until they can run free and get some picking. The hens should be kept tied or in a coop made so that the chickens can run out until they are at least two weeks old so that they cannot wander in wet grass; that is where they are not confined in an oven. Care should be taken to clean out the coop every day, and where rats take chickens, and we think they take them everywhere, the coop should not be closed with a door so as to make the air foul inside, but with close wire mesh. If they are shut closely and the coop is not cleaned

will surely break out. It is better to use a bottomless coop and shift about to fresh ground, then there will be no trouble with yaws.

(To be continued.)

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.

In order that our scheme for awarding prizes for the best kept holdings may be properly followed in its operations from the beginning, we publish a list of the parishes grouped together in the competitions that have already taken place.

The scheme first took effect in the year 1902-03, that is between 1st April 1902 and 31st March 1903, and in that year the parishes of Manchester, St. Ann, Trelawney and St. Mary competed and were judged.

The scheme, as originally arranged, was to take in four parishes over two years, and five parishes in the third year, so that in the fourth year it would have begun another round; that is, commencing with the group of parishes judged in 1902-03 as above stated, the same group would have been judged in 1905-06 again. But owing to retrenchment, funds were only available for three parishes. In 1903-04 the following parishes were grouped: Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James and St. Elizabeth,—St. James, however, had to be left over for the following year, and in 1904-05, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, and St. James were judged.

In 1905-06, the parishes grouped were St. Catherine, Portland, and Clarendon.

In 1906-07 Trelawney, Manchester, and St. Ann.

In 1907-08, Hanover, Westmoreland, and St. Mary.

In 1908-09, St. Andrew, St. James, Clarendon, and St. Elizabeth.

There has thus been a period of four years between the judging in these parishes, with the exception of St. Mary, where there was a period of five years as this was the odd parish, and the hurricane coming in 1903 did more damage in St. Mary than perhaps in any other parish, so that it was little use holding the competition there for some years after.

Thus Manchester, St. Ann, and Trelawney judged in 1902-03 were also judged in 1906-07.

St. Elizabeth is also an exception, as owing to the drought, there was no competition from 1903-04, till 1908-09, but all the other parishes have been judged in four years. For instance, St. Andrew and St. James judged in 1904-05 were again judged in 1908-09.

Next year 1909-10, the parishes in this competition are St. Thomas, Portland, St. Catherine and Trelawney.

If the scheme is continued, that is, if in the ord rent harm, things the Society has funds in 1910-11, the parishes wi as "pig be (of course we cannot say definitely) Manchester, Wes. Hanover, and St. Ann.

The present idea is as far as possible, to give one Instructor only one parish in the competition, but this cannot be always followed. In grouping four parishes together most of the parishes would have the competition every third year, that is with two years between.

STOCK NOTES.

SCOURS IN CALVES.—Owing to letters being received reporting many cases of scours in calves we give some special notes on the subject :—

Among hand-raised calves scours is very common and many of the poor creatures become emaciated by the trouble and die. It is caused by feeding milk too cold or too warm, or not fresh, or in buckets not kept perfectly clean, or by allowing the calves to gulp down the food too quickly, or feeding too much at a time, or by feeding uncooked cornmeal in the milk. Cornmeal is an unsuitable feed for young calves up to three months. Calf meals are good to supplement the milk, but mistakes are made in not following the directions closely and by feeding too much, under the mistaken notion of pushing the calves on. Common shop flour of good quality, is a very good food for calves, to add to milk, a tablespoonful to a cupful according to age of calf, will in most cases do good. When a calf begins to scour badly prompt treatment is necessary. First look to your methods of feeding and the kind of feeding given, and remedy these where the above mentioned faults apply. We give below some remedies for scours.

THE Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (U. S. A.), after testing formalin as a remedy for calf scour, has adopted it in practice. One part of formalin in 4,000 parts of milk will almost invariably destroy the organism in the bowels of the calf responsible for the disorder. Calf owners should dissolve half an ounce of formalin in 15½ ounces of water, and add a teaspoonful of this liquid to each pound of milk fed to the calf.

* * *

I HAVE on several occasions read in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* remedies for this common complaint, remedies all of which no doubt are effective, but at the same time cost money, and are not always at hand in the bush. I wish to point out to the readers a very simple cure, and one every dairyman can easily grow on the farm, and, at the same time, being an ornament on any place or garden—namely pomegranates. Take half of an ordinary sized fruit, chop it up, seeds and all, and boil in about one pint of milk or water ; boil it down to about half-pint, and give it to the sick

will surely brea
shift about to bottle. One dose, I have found, will cure it; if not yaws. *ain in a day or two's time. Gather all the fruits whe* … them up in thin slices, and sun-dry them, and they wil … or a long time, and always be on hand.—CORRESPONDENT *Queensland Agricultural Journal.*

[In the dry lowlands here pomegranates are the easiest things to grow yet they are seldom seen.—Ed.]

* * *

ANOTHER way of stopping scours in calves is to administer to them as a drench, two tablespoonfuls of castor oil, four tablespoonfuls of coconut oil, and one tablespoonful of whisky or rum; shake the bottle before administering. The worst case of scours will be cured by this, and the calf becomes lively again six hours after the dose is given. It should be followed up, however, in hand-raised calves, by giving a coffee-cupful of good shop flour, or better still arrowroot starch, made into a pap with hot water, to which is added a tea-cupful of pan sugar dissolved in enough water to cover it well. This is soothing to the digestive organs and nourishing.

* * *

A PROFITABLE MARE.—Mr. Jas. Smith of Nazareth, Manchester, has a mare which has given him 16 foals, viz.: 13 fillies, two mules, and one stallion, all of which were raised.

* * *

PIGS.—In a district in Germany, the valuable pine forests were being seriously injured by the grubs of the pine moth, and the local authorities turned into the forest a number of pigs to see if they would be useful in destroying the chrysalides of the moth.

The result fully answered their expectations, for the pigs hunted eagerly for the chrysalides; in fact they seemed able to find them by scent and eat large numbers.

Whereas previously it was not uncommon to find twenty chrysalides to the square yard, there are now hardly any.

And as regards the pigs, it was feared that such a diet might make them ill, and that losses would be incurred, but, on the other hand, they have thriven wonderfully well, so much so that it has been decided to let them pass the winter in the forest.

It has been noted in this JOURNAL several times that pigs have been found most useful on orange groves, as they root among the roots and clear off Fiddler beetles and Fiddler grubs; their rubbing against the trunks of the trees also cleanse two or three feet of these of scale, moss, lichens, (and White Scale seems to attack from below). The good young pigs do in an orange grove far exceeds the little harm their grubbing among the roots may do, and the untidy look of the grove may be excused for a few months as this can be easily put to right again.

The best time to put pigs in a grove is from October to January, and also whenever the Fiddler beetles are seen. Some people

keep pigs in their groves all the year round with no apparent harm, but visible good. This has been sneeringly referred to as "pig cultivation," but net results are what must be considered.

COMMENTS.

MANURING.—We are exceedingly glad to note our small cultivator friends discussing this subject of manuring land. At a meeting of the Gibraltar Branch (page 69 February JOURNAL) a member gave his experiences of the pig as a fertilizing agent, and claimed it to be the most useful animal for enriching the soil.

Have we not for so long, and from practical experience, insisted, that by a system of movable pens to be shifted along rows of banana, coffee, cocoa, etc., even the difficulty of manuring established cultivations of staple crops can be got over with a trifle of labour and no risk of damage to the trees? Our friend was right for his soil. The pig is indeed the most useful animal in red soils. These are hot soils and pig manure is a cold manure. Pig manure does not work so well on cold clayey soils. There bulky manures work better. Horse manure is a hot manure, cattle a cool manure, but the droppings of goats, sheep, and rabbits are richer than either and more suitable for general conditions. The economy of the pig is that it can by movable pens, be made to turn up the soil and deposit the manure exactly where it is wanted without the labour of conveying there, and without harm to the trees.

* * *

COWPEAS.—This is the time to plant those useful fertilizers of the soil—cowpeas. It is impossible on many banana plantations to get enough animal manure to increase the humus in the soil, or get enough "trash" to add a surface mulch. There is usually a sharp spell of dry weather from the middle of June, through July to the middle of August. By planting from March to April a thick crop of cowpeas, up the middle of young bananas planted from January to March, and by cutlassing the resulting mass of vegetation when in blossom, leaving the vines spread thickly over the soil until they are dug in when good rains fall again, there is added—the decaying roots stored with nitrogen ramifying through the soil and opening it up, fertilizing it deep down and a thick layer of decaying vegetable matter. In this way we avoid the souring of the soil often done by turning in a mass of green juicy matter, and we get the useful mulch when the weather is dry.

* * *

STALLION.—The Society's pony stallion "Sir Gerald" is now stationed at Gibraltar, St. Ann, with Mr. E. Arnett, Agricultural Instructor, Stewart Town P.O. The stallion is in fine fettle, is never ill, and has never needed or had a dose of medicine that we know of, and we have handled him more than
is a very hardy and sturdy animal, intell

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PUPILS.—We again ask planters who are open to take young men desirous of learning tropical agriculture as apprentices, to write us stating particulars. The Secretary of the West India Committee desires to be supplied with a list of such planters.

* * *

RATS.—There should be a world-wide campaign against rats, for the keynote of success in our battle against them must be co-operation. Co-operation should begin at home, and our efforts in Jamaica instead of being spasmodic should be unanimous and persistent. The Island loses about £100,000 per annum from the depredations of rats, and if any reader does not believe this and will write us, we shall have the pleasure of figuring it out for him.

If all cats were good ratters they would be the best means of getting rid of rats, but it is the exception for a cat to be a ratter at all. A well-fed cat is very seldom a ratter. Outside of the house the best ratter is undoubtedly the owl, and we go so far as to say that these birds should be encouraged and that a planter, if he has none around, should get a pair. As many as 20 freshly killed rats have been found about a single owl's nest where there were young ones. The number of rats and mice that one pair of owls will kill in a year must be enormous.

We still hope to get a virus that will stand the heat of the climate and put up in a form ready for setting and not requiring any elaborate preparation like the virus put up in tubes of gelatine.

We can say this much so far, that the preparation is readily taken by rats if it only has the desired effect.

* * *

COTTON.—A correspondent in Barbados writes:—"Cotton will not be a great success this season. We want a much more hardy plant and one that will give a much larger return per acre, the ordinary Sea Island we have;—even if we get a less fine staple. A cotton that will give us 800 or 1,000 lbs. of seed cotton, selling at a few pence will pay us better than the finest Sea Island."

We think that is the opinion that those interested here are coming to, and some have been of that opinion all along.

As a matter of fact a late communication from the British Cotton Growing Association also suggests the substitution of a more robust grower than Sea Island Cotton.

* * *

MONGOOSE.—We have often written that there is no plague of mongoose and never has been. It is a useful animal and keeps rats in check; but it has been without reason blamed for almost every evil in the country. If hens' eggs are scarce, it is the mongoose to blame; if pigeons are scarce, through a bad breeding season or overshooting, it is the mongoose; because quails have been shot out for lack of preserving, it is the mongoose that is blamed. As a matter of

fact we are just as scarce of flying birds which seldom venture on the ground as we are of ground birds; and wherever lands have been shut up and no shooting allowed, there are plenty of quails and pigeons. Great Britain swarms with game even though it is thickly peopled, and weasels and stoats abound,—at any rate are just as plentiful as mongoose are here. The estates here that boast of trapping hundreds of mongoose a year will, within a short time, require to fight plagues of rats, use poisons by the hundredweight, traps by the score and spend several hundred pounds a year.

* * *

BUTTER FAT.—A good many who are interesting themselves in the creamery business are somewhat at sea as regards the terms butter fat and commercial butter. They cannot understand how from cream containing so much butter fat, a greater weight of butter, that is, commercial butter results. The chemical test shows the actual percentage of butter fat in the milk, but when the cream is churned the result therefrom is not pure butter fat, but contains butter fat water, casein, sugar and ash, besides the natural salt, and also salt that may be added. 100 lbs. of butter fat will therefore make 116 to 118 lbs. of butter.

* * *

IMPOVERISHING PASTURES.—It is a faet liable to be overlooked that just as we can improve pastures by proper treatment, so we can impoverish them by an improper system of grazing. Unfortunately, there is no system which so quickly affects this as continuous grazing by milch cattle without the use of constant dressings of manure. The peculiarity of milch cattle is that all their producc is taken off the farm, and the goodness of the land goes with it. Where a farm is kept solely for dairying, then it is of the utmost importance to the maintenance of its fertility that it should receive annual dressings of manure for which purpose artificial fertilizers are useful.

BRANCH NOTES.

Springfield (St. James).—The annual meeting of this Branch came off on the 29th January, 1909. Present: J. Jacob Irving, Esq., presiding, and eight others. Mr. Irving was called to the chair. He suitably addressed the meeting, stating that the Society is not less in number than when it started. It has gone over five years of existence. It is not in debt, while there is something in the treasury. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. After this, Mr. Irving detailed the accounts of 1907-1908 and assured a balance of 38/. Mr. P. H. Tharpe's position falls vacant through his absence from the Island. Mr. W. G. Reid agreed to keep the goat of the Society that was being cared by Mr. D. Adolphus Smart, as he may be away from the locality in short. Mr. A. J. McLaughlan gave a fine account of the success he achieved of that he cared, and was therefore highly congratulated by all present. To him was accorded a vote of thanks. Officers for 1908 were thanked for services, and the re-election resulted as follows:—Rev. J. A. Jones, President; J. Jacob Irving, Esq., Vice-president and Treasurer; Mr. D. E. Drummond, assistant Vice-president; Mr. D. Adolphus Smart, Secretary; Mr. E. Perkins, as-

sistant Secretary. The Executive Committee consists of the officers, and *Messrs. B. B. Morris, J. Wallace, J. Shaw, S. Leach,* W. Y. Reid, A. J. McLaughlan, A. Hall and W. Leach. It was moved by Mr. E. Drummond and seconded by Mr. E. Perkins and agreed, that J. H. Leader, Esq., be asked to favour us with a lecture on agriculture at his earliest convenience, and hope this may be arranged for at the next visit of Mr. H. D. Mennell, the travelling Instructor. At this point several communications connected with the Society, were dealt with. It was agreed that this Branch should arrange for a show, and the matter be put to the Instructor when he comes next. There was a lengthy discussion on the planting of yams, which ended in conclusion that the long grown yams do much better bearing than those planted blind. The year's account was audited by Messrs. A. Hall and E. Perkins. Here the meeting adjourned, after a vote of thanks to the chair.—D. ADOLPHUS SMART, Secretary.

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Spanish Town.—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the boys' schoolroom, Monk Street, on the 8th February. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, as also minutes of a special meeting called for the election of a delegate to represent this Branch at the half-yearly meeting of the parent Society. As arising out of the minutes, the President, Rev. W. Clarke McCalla, was requested to inform the Branch of the work done by him as delegate. This was outlined as a very important gathering and the time occupied showed clearly the bright future for agriculturists throughout the Island. A vote of thanks was tendered to the delegate by the Secretary by request of the meeting, all standing. The Secretary intimated to the meeting that he had received twelve copies of the St. Thomas-in-the-Vale show list, which were distributed, as also appointing him on their show committee. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the receipt thereof and accept the appointment. Minor correspondence was then dealt with, and the meeting was adjourned until Monday, 15th inst., to consider the report of the committee appointed to view and report on a Crown-land property adjacent to the town.—G. P. FONSECA, Secretary.

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St. Ann's.—A meeting of this Branch was held at Claremont, 10th February, 1909. Present :— J. E. L. Cox, President ; Hon. H. E. Cox, Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, Colonel Moulton-Barrett, Mr. Flynn and J. D. Hirst, Agricultural Instructor for Clarendon and St. Catherine, and Miss Ffrench-Mullen, Secretary. Letters read from Rev. J. Chandler and Messrs. A. and K. Roxburgh, regretting their inability to be present. Letter read from Hr. J. H. Levy of Browns Town, saying a show will be held at Minard on 22nd April. Minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The Secretary stated that a meeting had been called on 20th January, to arrange about sending a delegate from this Parish to the half-yearly general meeting to be held in Kingston on 28th January. Only four members attended, so no meeting could be held, but the four present decided to ask Mr. J. G. L. Cox to represent this Branch, to which he agreed and attended the meeting. Hearing there that the proposal to increase the number of Agricultural Instructors to one for each Parish was to be placed before the Legislative Council by Mr. Cousins, this meeting was called to discuss the question. Mr. Hirst spoke on the subject, showing the system and scope of an Agricultural Instructor's work, and said he knew the question of an increased number of Instructors of various grades is to be raised by Mr. Cousins, and that we should see more to the quality than the quantity of the men who were appointed. 1. The following resolution was moved by Colonel Moulton-Barrett, and seconded by Hon. H. E. Cox :—"That the St. Ann's Agricultural Society considers the appointment of an Agricultural Instructor for each Parish is absolutely necessary, and that it is one of the first duties of the Govern-

posed to appoint Instructors of various grades, and in view of the very large body of cultivators of the settler class in this Parish, it is submitted that an Instructor of the highest grade should be appointed thereto." This resolution was carried. 2. Moved by Colonel Moulton-Barrett, seconded by Hon. H. E. Cox, that the following resolution be communicated to Hon. J. Allwood, member for St. Ann's:—"That this Society understands it is proposed to place a vote on the estimates for the coming financial year covering the appointment of an increased number of Agricultural Instructors, it is hoped that you will strongly support such a proposal, and in view of the large body of cultivators of the settler class in this Parish, it is considered that an Instructor of the highest grade should be appointed thereto." This resolution was carried. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the above resolutions to Hon. H. H. Cousins and Hon. J. Allwood. Messrs. A. and K. Roxburgh stated in their letters that they were not in favour of having an Agricultural Instructor appointed to each Parish. Rev. J. Chandler wrote strongly in favour of the proposal. Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, in speaking of the prize holding competitions, asked if in view of the idea which some of the settlers have, that if they improve their land for the competitions, their taxes would be raised, it would not be possible to remit the taxes of the prize-winners to the amount of the prizes won, instead of giving cash, the opinion of those present was that the scheme is not feasible. The Secretary informed the meeting that she regretted that she would have to resign her post as she would soon be leaving the Island. It was decided to call a meeting on 17th March to elect a new Secretary. Mr. Hirst spoke of the show to be held at Bybrook Pen, Bog Walk, in April, and asked for the assistance of this Branch towards making it a success, as it will be the first show to be held in that division. The Society agreed to help in any way it could. The meeting then adjourned.

* * *

Glengoffe.—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Grateful Hill schoolroom on Thursday, the 4th February. The meeting was a large and representative one, over fifty persons, members and visitors, being present. Many were hat-makers and traders in these articles, who had been invited by the Secretary to discuss the condition of affairs in the foreign market. Mr. Briscoe had been in the district from the 1st February, hunting up the members and others, and going with them over their cocoa cultivations. With the Instructor giving instruction in such a practical manner, the output of cocoa from this district will very soon be materially increased. The meeting was called to order at 4.30 p.m., and the preliminary exercises followed. The discussion in connection with the jippi-jappa hat industry became rather warm. Mr. R. M. Rennalls told all he knew about the dishonest habits of some hat-makers. The Secretary laid before the meeting the facts he had collected concerning this once remunerative trade, now practically ruined. Other speakers followed, and even some of those present, who were connected with the industry, must have been rendered very uncomfortable. The discussion closed with the following resolution:—"Resolved that this large and representative meeting of the Glengoffe hat-making community, pledges itself to use its influence to prevent any deception in connection with the trade, and to manufacture and place on the market none but the best article." Other matters discussed were the quality of some of the oranges exported last year, also the modes of curing cocoa. Much was said, especially concerning the curing of cocoa, many pods, it was asserted, being gathered before they are ripe, and covered up for a few days. Mr. Augustus Williams reported that much of the larceny of cocoa was to be explained by the fact that women are going into the homes and fields of the people in the Sandy Hill district and around, purchasing cocoa pods. This some do on such a large scale, as to be able to sell the cured product to the shops. To this matter the meeting decided to call the attention of the parent Society. Mr. Briscoe, in an instructive and interesting man

ner, dealt with the cocoa industry. He showed several grubs taken from the root of dying and dead trees in some local cultivations. He dealt at length with the correspondence from Mr. Barclay *re* the show. All present thought it advisable not to hold the show this April, but to look forward to holding it in April 1910. When thanked for his work and advices, Mr. Briscoe replied that a man should do his duty, especially when he is paid for it. With the assistance of Mr. Robert Hyatt, about thirty new members were added to the roll.—A. P. HANSON, Secretary.

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Lamb's River, Westmoreland.—The annual general meeting of this Branch was held in the Mt. Hermon schoolroom on Friday, 5th February, J. R. Williams, Esq., President, in the chair; H. D. D. Mennell, Agricultural Travelling Instructor, and nine others. The minutes of the previous quarterly meeting and two special meetings were read and confirmed. Mr. Whittingham proposed that the Society's fowls be sold; but an amendment was moved, seconded and carried, that they be kept until the return to the Island, of the Rev. T. B. Prentice who kept them origanally, and at the next meeting of the Society, it be decided whether they be kept or sold. Mr. Mennell reported that he had written to the Secretary of the parent Society *re* the sale of arrowroot. He hoped that at the next meeting of the Society to be able to say definitely what may be expected for the future. The "Arts and Crafts Competition" was again brought up, but it was decided that there is nothing to be sent from this neighbourhood: the manufacture of cedar bowls for baths was recommended as likely to be profitable in the tourist season. The Secretary reported on the exhibits sent from the Society to the Paradise Show: Mr. Edmund Graham obtained first prizes for white yams, and affoo, first and second prizes for yampees; Mrs. D. Hylton, first prize for bananas (13 hands); Mr. T. B. Lawrence, first prize for packed oranges; Mr. George Wright, first prize for ears of corn; Miss Hesse Lawrence, first prize for water colour painting; and Mr. Chas. Wedemire, first prize for arrowroot starch. Mr. Mennell congratulated the Society on the results obtained. The Treasurer's report for the year ending 31st December, 1908, showing balance to the credit of the Society of £1 17. 6., was adopted. Mr. Mennell gave notice that a show is expected to be held in connection with the Darliston Branch Society, some time during this year, and asked the Lamb's River Branch to co operate. The book, "Suggestions for School Gardens," was discussed, and in view of its practical usefulness to cultivators, it was suggested that it should be kept on sale locally. The President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary for 1908, were each unanimously re-elected for the current year. The following were proposed and duly elected as new members:—Messrs. H. A. Barnett, Bethel Town P.O.; A. Salesman, New Market P.O.; E. C. Kamickai Hy. McIntosh, Anthony Gentle, Saml. Groskopf, Lamb's River. The meeting adjourned to Friday, 2nd April.—U. L. BROWN, Secretary.

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Fair Prospect (Portland).—The annual meeting was held on Saturday, February, 6th, 1909, when there were present:—R. Henry Elworthy, Esq., J.P. (in the chair), and 10 others. The meeting was opened by prayer led by Mr. J. Munroe. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, thought that the Society not having done better work during the current year, was owing to lack of punctuality in attendance, but with the plan before us, we sincerely hope the ensuing year will be one of success. The Secretary was then called upon to read the minutes of last meeting, which after some amendment, were confirmed. As arising out of the minutes, the President, who was commissioned to communicate with certain gentlemen *re* trustees of penny bank, was requested to give some account of his mission. It is to be regretted that this was not satisfactorily done. Several letters from the General Secretary, Mr. Barclay, and one from

Mr. H. Q. Levy, travelling Instructor for Portland, were read. Messrs. Elworthy and Brown remarked how it had appeared in the newspapers that Mr. Levy is reported to have said that he had written all the Branch Societies in Portland and only St. George's had replied, whereas his letter to this Society, dated 27th January, was received after this report had appeared in the papers, and also the Secretary of this Society, during meetings, having consulted the President and other officers of the Society, had replied on the 1st *inst*. The Secretary was instructed to make this explanation, and to further point out that we will be too glad to welcome Mr. Levy and to take advantage of his services. The Secretary was also instructed to write the gentleman on the subject. The Treasurer presented a bill of 22/ from Mr. J. Barclay for printing of books, etc., showing a balance account of 7/, which amount the Treasurer has been ordered to pay as soon as possible. Three gentlemen as trustees of the bank, were nominated, subject to their approval. On one or more refusing, two other gentlemen were named. The business before the house being thus far finished, the Secretary was called upon to present the annual report of the Society, but to the regret of all there was none. The Treasurer then presented an elaborate report showing that the Society began its financial year with 1/2 and has to-day to its credit £4. The accounts were satisfactorily received and a vote of thanks accorded Mr. Munroe. The Chairman gave his presidential address, and hoped this year, with the united efforts of all the members, will be one of an all-round success. Mr. Elworthy further stated thht Mr. Cradwick had written to arrange for a meeting on 12th March, and although it does not agree with the date of our monthly meeting, yet all present agreed to attend and give Mr. Cradwick a hearty reception. Election of officers for ensuing year next followed: R. Henry Elworthy, Esq., re-appointed President; Messrs. L. A. C. Brown, John Panton, and W. Zechariah Buckley, appointed first, second and third Vice-presidents respectively. Messrs. Zech. W. Buckley and D. S. Munroe, appointed Secretary and assistant Secretary, respectively. Mr. J. N. Munroe re-appointed Treasurer. Managing Committee consists of following gentlemen in conjunction with the aforementioned officers: Messrs. Claude Deans, W. A. Ellison, Herbert Lawrence, John Burke, N W. Speid, and David Taylor. The following new members were elected:—Mr. J. N. Vassall and Miss Edith Sherlock, both of Priestman's River.—ZECHARIAH W. BUCKLEY, Secretary.

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Cedar Valley (St. Catherine).—On the 4th inst., the above Society had its meeting. The Secretary being absent, the President, Rev. J. N. D. Gordon, acted. The other gentlemen present were George McGregor, L. Patterson, T. Ramakie, Alex. McKay, Henry Walker and Benjamin Douse. The President, who was sent as delegate to the annual meeting held in Kingston on the 28th January, tendered his report, which was well received by the members. The Agricultural Show to be held at Bybrook Pen on the 15th April, received consideration. It was agreed to write for large handbills and have them posted, so as to keep the people's mind fresh for the show. Further agreed to hold meetings at Phillipsburgh on the 11th inst., at 4 p.m., Hamwalk on the 16th and Redwood on the 25th, to explain about the show and encourage the people to get up exhibits. Agreed to re-petition the Governor *re* road and bridge over the Indian River. The President reported that the new Post Office will most likely be opened at Redwood on the 1st April.—R. CAMPBELL CLARK, Secretary.

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Porus.—The regular monthly meeting of the Porus Branch was held in the Church of England schoolroom on Monday, March 1st, 1909. The President being absent, S. A. Hendricks, Vice-president, took the chair, 23 others being present. The minutes of the last meeting were read ard confirmed. After the business of the agenda had been gone through, Mr. Palache, the Agricultural Instructor, gave an address. By request he

spoke of Essential Oils, tabled an orange rinder and explained the use of it. He also spoke of the orange industry in general and white scale in particular, showing how to get rid of these parasites, and advocating more attention to the orange trees in order to help to keep the orange trade alive. He also spoke of the cassava industry, and the slovenly way this was cultivated, by inadequate preparation of the soil, mixing the different varieties, etc. As with other crops, he said, they should try to select the best sticks of the best varieties for planting. It was a part of his business as Instructor to talk frankly about what he saw in their fields, and if he did say hard things he did not mind if it would make them think over their work and improve their practices in agriculture. A vote of thanks was moved for the lecturer. Mr. Crosbie then continued the reading of his paper on "Manuring," and at the close of it Mr. Palache moved a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Hendricks. The Instructor said it gave him great pleasure to have members of Branch Societies taking such an amount of interest in agriculture, and such papers read by members did a great deal of good.

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Rio Minho.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, February 25th, at Park Hall. The Secretary read the following report: The Society is still alive and is able to do some good work. The Branch has held eight meetings during the year and discussed these questions among others—Praedial larceny, Cupid's road, jippi-jappa hat industry, Mear's (1908) show, pest of rats, shipment of produce of small settlers, system of planting corn and burning of land. A show was held in April, and was, everything taken into account, very successful, socially, financially and from the standpoint of exhibits. It was opened by His Excellency the Governor, who expressed himself pleased with the fine show of exhibits in minor products, and said he was in favour of the railway being extended to Chapelton. A rat hunt was organised but came to grief through rain. The Parochial Board has granted a road through Cupid, which is now being worked. A class for teaching how to make jippi-jappa hats was started and successfully carried out under the tutorship of Mr. G. A. Coombs, an expert hat-maker. To sum up, the Branch has carried through a show, got Cupid's road recognised, conducted a hat class, purchased a fine black Orpington rooster for the use of the members. This is a very decent record and one which shows that the Society merits support. It is to be sincerely hoped that a bright and prosperous 1909 is before the Branch and district, and we shall do better both as a people and as a Branch. A useful discussion took place on the curing of produce. The following resolution was passed; "Resolved—That the Jamaica Agricultural Society take the necessary steps to obtain the views of the large shippers of our island produce as to the feasibility of grading produce and offering different prices according to grades, as in the opinion of this Branch, it is the most effective way to deal with the question, which is one of vital importance to the whole island." The following officers were re-elected: A Harvey Davis, Esq., President and Treasurer; Rev. A. N. Thompson and Samuel May, Esq., Vice-presidents; U. Theo. McKay, Esq., Secretary. A meeting is fixed for the 4th March, at 6 p.m., when a resolution dealing with the railway extension, will be dealt with, to be sent to the Hon. G. W. Fitzherbert.

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Springfield (St. Elizabeth).—A regular meeting of this Branch was held here on the 26th February. The following members were present:—The Rev. J. Craig, Chairman, Messrs. Tom Smith, Geo. Black, George Eldridge, Ed. Coke, Alex. McKenzie, Mr. J. Chambers, W. Pitter, Jared McDonald, Jas. Poyser; and as visitors, Misses O'Sullivan, Peynado, Shields and Mrs. Atkinson. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman gave his retiring address, in which

he brought in some very instructive remarks, urging upon his hearers the necessity of spreading their knowledge for the benefit of one another. The Treasurer and Secretary also gave reports with the laying down of their offices, after which the election of officers for the coming year followed, resulting thus: Rev. J. Craig, re-elected Chairman; Messrs. Tom Smith and Geo. Black, Vice-chairmen, Mr. J. Chambers, re-elected Treasurer, and B. Thos. Atkinson, re-elected Secretary. In answer to the question as to whether the Secretary had sent an invitation to Mr. Palache, the Instructor for the district, he being absent, the meeting having received an affirmative answer, with no reply from Mr. Palache, it was decided that the matter be referred to Mr. Barclay. The jippi-jappa industry came up for discussion, but preliminary to the formation of a class, it was thought necessary to find out the number of young ladies who will join the class. This matter will come up for further discussion at the next meeting. The delegate sent to Kingston, having failed to produce a report of the half-yearly general meeting of the Agricultural Society, as he was late through a wrongly dated notice from the Secretary of the Agricultural Society, it was moved by Mr. Tom Smith and seconded by Mr. Geo. Eldridge, that the Permanent Secretary be called upon to refund 25/ voted by this Branch to help to defray the expenses of the delegate. The petition to be sent to the Post Master General was prepared and received the signatures of the members. It asks that the Post Office at Springfield be connected directly with Ipswich. In order to have the members for the coming year fixed up, the next meeting was fixed for the last Friday in March, when Mr. Palache is to be invited. One new member, Mr. W. Anderson, was added.—B. THOS. ATKINSON, Secretary.

[Branch Societies cannot ask for the services of an Instructor any day that may suit them without reference to the economical preparation of the Instructor's itinerary. It would never do for Mr. Palache to attend a meeting in South Manchester one day and travel to the borders of Westmoreland the next day. The Branch Societies must consult with the Instructor, and if they wish his services, arrange their meeting days to work into his itinerary for economy of his time and travelling. Mr. Palache was attending meetings in Manchester at the end of February, and in addition was called upon, at short notice, to carry through a special service in South Manchester, South St. Elizabeth and in the lower parts of Clarendon, which might be of vital importance to these parts. On the day of the Springfield meeting, Mr. Palache travelled to Clarendon Park, and covered about 40 miles in travelling through the lower part of Clarendon. We shall, however, find how the letter from the Secretary of the Springfield Branch was not acknowledged.—THE SECRETARY.]

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Hanover.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held at Lucea on the 13th February: the President, C. A. Cover, Esq., B.A., in the chair. The Office-bearers for 1909-1910 were elected.—Hon. President, Hon. G. A. L. Sanftleben; President, C. A. Cover, Esq., B.A.; Vice-presidents, Rev. J. Yair, Rev. J. M. McDonald, Rev. D. A. Rothie, M.A.; Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. J. F. Garthshore, M.A., Cascade P.O.; fifteen elected members,—Mrs. Yair, Messrs. S. Webster, H. G. M. Davis, B. R. Clare, E. M. Gordon, W. W. Williams, D. W. Talbot, I. N. Malcolm, R. A. Hogg, E. E. Melville, D. A. Webster, Fyfe Roxburgh, James Grant, J. S. Robinson, W. O. Reid. Chairmen of District Committees:—Sandy Bay, H. V. Miller, Esq., Flint River P.O.; Brownsville, Rev. J. F. Garthshore, M.A., Cascade P.O.; Dunalava, Rev. B. C. Lumsden, Lucea P.O.; Askenish, Rev. B. C. Lumsden, Lucea P.O.; Riverside, Rev. J. W. McDonald, Riverside P.O.; Cacoog, W. W. Williams, Esq., Riverside P.O.; Green Island, Rev. A. B. Mullings, Green Island P.O.; Ramble, Rev. A. H. Aguilar, Ramble P.O.; Lethe, D. W. Mowatt, Esq., Anchovy P.O.; Hopewell, J. E. Gayle, Esq., Flint River P.O.; Pondside, E. E. Melville,

Esq., J.P., Flint River P.O.; Gurney Mount, A. S. Samuels, Esq., Flint River P.O.; Watford Hill, Rev. W. M' Christie, Flint River P.O.; Mt. Peto, Rev. W. J. Norman, Anchovy P.O.; Lucea, Rev. D. A. Rothnie, M.A., Lucea P.O. The cordial thanks of the Society were awarded to Fyfe Roxburgh, Esq., for his services as Acting Secretary and for his work in connection with the show. It was agreed to carry out the suggestion of the Secretary made at the meeting held on the 10th November, 1907, that "a Small Holdings Competition among members of the Society should be held in 1909." The following prizes will be offered:—1. Holdings not over 20 acres—five prizes, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6,—£2. 2. Holdings not over 10 acres—six prizes—10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5—£2 5. 3. Holdings not over 5 acres—ten prizes—10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5. 4, 3, 2, 1—£2 15. The system of points used in judging holdings under the Jamaica Agricultural Society to be used, the rules to be followed generally but not strictly, the judging to take place in November, no entrance fee to be charged. It was agreed that Mr. Mennell be acquainted with this scheme and that he be requested to arrange to visit the parish in April and the first week in May, to prepare competitors and obtain entries and to attend the quarterly meeting in Lucea on the 8th May, and report the number of entries obtained. It was agreed to inform Mr. Barclay of this scheme and to request that Mr. Mennell's services be obtained in November for this purpose. The Secretary was requested to have 100 bills printed and circulated with the details of the scheme set forth. The scheme can only be taken advantage of by members of the Hanover Branch. As arranged in November 1907, no show will be held in 1909. Subscriptions to assist in giving the prizes are to be sought. Next meeting, Saturday 8th May, at Lucea Court House, at 1 o'clock.—J. F. GARTSHORE, Secretary

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Gibraltar (St. Ann's).—A meeting of this Branch was held on the 26th February, Mr. R. S. Barnett, Vice-president, presiding. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. No discussion arising out of the minutes, the meeting proceeded to business according to the agenda. Mr. Barnett read a paper on "Co-operation." He pointed out some means by which the members can make this Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society a success. He was sanguine that there is much good to be got from the Society, but it is for the members to co-operate in order to get what is theirs. Mr. Edwards moved a vote of thanks. This was seconded by Mr. D. Campbell. Mr. Allardice raised the question of "Improved Breeds of Pigs." He was desirous of having the old China breed restored into the district. His reason for advocating this was that they were more easily kept and sold than the other breeds. Their average prices generally suit the small butchers. The Secretary was asked to take steps to find out how this idea could be accomplished through the Society. The meeting agreed with Mr. Alladice in every particular. Mr. Edwards thought that sufficient attention was not paid by the small settlers to their "coffee walks" (as they are called). He observed that year after year, most of these plots are allowed to grow up in bush. The old wood is not cut out to make room for new shoots. No attempt is made at manuring, as is done with other staples, consequently the crop falls in yield and in quality. Having raised this question, a healthy discussion followed, which was, on the whole, very helpful. Mr. Barnett advocated the use of small pulpers which could be made locally. He was able to speak from experience on the question of pulped and unpulped coffee, as a buyer and a grower. Now that these pulpers can be had locally, he was of the opinion that all the members of this Society would, either individually or combining, avail themselves of this opportunity. Mr. Holland's offer to the small settlers was taken up and discussed. It was resolved that the discussion be postponed for the next meeting when, the members having given it a thought, would be in a better position to express their views on the matter. Mrs. Bourne's letter, thanking the members of the Branch

for their condolence touching the death of her husband. was read to the meeting.—I. H. Edwards, Secretary.

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Above Rocks (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting of the Above Rocks Branch was held in the St. Mary's Schoolroom on Friday, February 19th. Among those present were Messrs. E. E. Waugh, Vice-president; J. Briscoe, Agricultural Instructor; Mr. Rodgers, President Red Hill's Branch Agricultural Society; and some thirty others, including nine ladies. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Several letters were read and dealt with. The report of the half-yearly general meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, presented by the delegate sent by the Society (Mr. W. Thomas Linton), was read, and the meeting expressed satisfaction and approval of the delegate's actions. The adjourned discussion on the jippi-jappa hat question was continued, and several important points were dealt with, the members pledging themselves to do all in their power to prevent the deterioration of the trade. Mr. Briscoe then gave a very interesting and instructive address, reviewing the principal agricultural topics of the day, and dealing at length with the cocoa trade. Mr. Waugh urged the enlarging of the scope of the Society's work, and outlined a scheme of works at which the Branch should aspire. The Secretary explained how much of this had already been accomplished, and how much was under consideration. Mr. Rodgers suggested what could be done in the matter of improving the breed of poultry and small stock. A lengthy discussion on this subject followed, in which all the members took active part. It was finally decided to purchase a pure-bred rooster and a ram for the Society, and the Secretary and Treasurer were authorised to procure them. The question of a show for next year was brought to the members' notice for consideration, to be discussed at a future meeting. A vote of thanks to Mr. Rodgers for his welcome and valuable help, was unanimously passed, as was also another to Mr. Briscoe for his visit and helpful advice. A few other matters were dealt with and the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on the 19th of March, when a large attendance is expected. The cocoa crop is practically finished, and there has been no improvement in the price. There has been a demand for annatto, and the price a few days ago was very good, but it has fallen again. There is a fair sale of hats, and a large demand for the straw. It would be a wise move to cultivate the jippi-jappa plant on systematic lines. There is a fair supply of ground provisions, but sugar is still dear. Nearly everybody is planting or has planted corn, peas and cabbages, and we are having fine spring weather. May it continue.—W. L. F. Vassall, Secretary.

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Upper Trelawny.—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Albert Town, on Friday, 26th February; as on the last occasion, Mr. D. R. Wright, Vice-president, occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Barclay *in re* the funds of the Society which is still in the hands of Mr. T. F. Forbes, the ex-Treasurer. That the Board refused affiliation to the Ulster Spring Agricultural Society so long as Mr. Forbes was an office-bearer, but he (Mr. Forbes) therefore resigned. Mr. Bryan asked as to whether Mr. Forbes had been written to for the amount. The Secretary here laid on the table the correspondence between himself and Mr. Forbes, as also copy of a letter that he had written to the President on the matter. The meeting deprecated strongly the conduct of the ex-Treasurer in refusing to hand over the moneys entrusted to him. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously decided that the President be again written to urging a reply to the Secretary's letter, as the Committee is anxious to have this matter brought to some final understanding. The Secretary next read letter from Mr. A. B. [illegible]

uary meeting. After some discussion, it was thought necessary according to Rule 16, that Mr. South be called upon to resign, as his continued membership will be prejudicial to this Society. On the suggestion of the Secretary, the matter was allowed to remain over for the next meeting. At this stage the names of Messrs. R. F. Gregg and Adam Cunningham, were proposed for enrolment as members. Mr. Linton next asked as to the financial position of the Society and was answered by the Secretary. Mr. Brown was of opinion that the time had come when each member should be provided with a copy of the Rules of the Society. The President moved that the Secretary should write and find out from the *Times* Printery, what will be the cost for say, 100 copies in regular book form. Seeds.—The Secretary was also instructed to write the Secretary of the parent Society with the view of finding out whether seeds (*i.e.*) cabbages, turnips, etc., are available, as also plants from seedling canes, so that a trial be made in the district. Mr. Brown asked in respect to the Instructor.* The meeting agreed with Mr. Brown, that this district is everything but satisfied with the services of the local Instructor. The meeting then terminated.—*A. A.* PALMER, Secretary.

* [We presume this refers to the very limited time the Instructor has to devote to the district, not to his services presumably.—ED]

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St. John's, St. (Catherine).—A regular meeting of this Society was held at Kitson Town on the 2nd March, at 6 p.m. Present: Messrs. D. V. Anderson, President; J. H. Gonzales, Vice-president; and seven others. After the minutes were read and confirmed, the Secretary informed the members that in addition to the letter that he had received from the Secretary of St. Thomas-ye-Vale Agricultural Society, he had received not only another but some prize lists relative to their oncoming show. The prize lists were reviewed at length. The Secretary was authorised to reply that the members of this Branch will compete in the Minor Products Class; more especially the products of the cassava. as this is a cassava-growing district. All present pledged to attend the show. The Committee appointed at the last meeting to organize a penny bank in connection with this Branch, presented their report, which was adopted. Mr. S. A. Banton was unanimously elected Treasurer, and Mr. D. V. Anderson, Secretary. Mr. Banton was asked to procure pass books, etc., in order that deposits might be made during the next fortnight. Mr. Gonzales asked whether the Secretary had reeeived any letter from the Parochial Board concerning the tank. The Secretary replied that he had not received any letter subsequent to the last meeting, but previous to that he had received one from the Clerk of the Board, saying that the Superintendent was authorised to erect the pump at once. The following resolution was unanimously carried:—"Seeing that five weeks have elapsed since this Society was informed that the Parochial Board had authorised the Superintendent of Roads and Works to erect *at once* that much desired pump, and until now there is no sign of its erection, *resolved* that the Board be again approached, because this Society is of opinion that now is opportune time so to do as the tank is now dry." On the motion of Mr. Banton, this was also carried unanimously:—"Seeing that the dry season is on and the ponds at Aylmers and Belmont can be now cleaned, this Society would be glad if the Parochial Board of this Parish, St. Catherine, would furnish to its members the desired information relative to the cleaning of the ponds (*vide* resolution adopted on the 2nd ultimo) as that informatian would expedite matters."

Note:—During the latter part of January and the whole of last month, the time was exeeedingly dry, so dry that vegetation is scorched, but since the 3rd, we are having slight showers, for which all are glad. Food-stuffs are far from scarce, and consequently can be got quite reasonably